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Boyer  
supports  
extension  
of Metro  
Orange Line  
in Laval

Over 140 leaders  
honoured at Sona  
Lakhoyan Olivier's  
'Recognition  
Evening'



Chomedey  
MNA Sona  
Lakhoyan  
Olivier is  
seen here  
with one  
of the  
Inukshuk  
Awards she  
presented  
to a select  
number of  
community  
leaders in  
her riding  
during a  
Recognition  
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Armenian  
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Centre.  
(Photo:  
Martin C.  
Barry, Laval  
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Rose-Art's Symposium Ste-Rose  
draws crowd of over 20,000 people



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# Boyer has ARTM's backing for extension of Metro Orange Line

*'It's time for this project to move forward,' says Laval's mayor*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
marty@newsfirst.ca

Following word from the Montreal region's public transit planning authority that it will be working on eight major transit projects in the coming years – including the Orange Line extension to Chomedey – Laval mayor Stéphane Boyer has stepped forward on cue to enthusiastically boost this long-neglected project that could add up to five new Metro stations in Laval.

On July 24, the Autorité régionale de transport métropolitain (ARTM) issued a communiqué, which included preliminary results of a study identifying the extension of the Orange Line as the most viable of the eight projects, confirming what Laval had been requesting for years.

"While major projects are progressing rapidly, the ARTM is working on the next phase of long-term planning," the ARTM said in a statement, adding that the launch of the eight metropolitan study zones "will guide decision-makers on the best ways to develop public transit" throughout the Greater Montreal region.

## 'Needs of the coming decades'

"The projects shaping the network of tomorrow are already underway, but our work doesn't stop there," said Benoit Gendron, the ARTM's director general. "To meet the needs of the coming decades, we must start thinking now about the next steps. That's why public transit planning must be ongoing. The study areas allow us to better understand the realities of each territory and identify the most promising interventions for the future."

Over the next few years, the ARTM says it will conduct the studies covering the entire Montreal metropolitan area. According to the agency, the studies will assess current and future mobility needs; analyze different public transit development scenarios; identify projects offering the greatest benefits to citizens; and recommend the most relevant scenario for each area to the provincial government in order to guide future investments.

## The eight sectors

The eight study areas will cover strategic sectors of the metropolitan region:

- Chomedey–Saint-Laurent (2026);
- Central Montreal sectors–West Zone (2026);
- Laurentian Corridor (2027);
- Les Moulins (2027);
- Montérégie Corridor (2028);
- Saint-Laurent–Ahuntsic–Montréal-Nord (2028);



A graphic issued by the City of Laval following the ARTM's announcement suggests five new Metro stations being built in west-central Laval, in addition to the current stations at De la Concorde and Montmorency.

- Marguerite-d'Youville (2029);
- Roussillon (2029).

The ARTM says the first study will focus on the Chomedey–Saint-Laurent sector (Montreal and Laval). Its results will be released in the fall "and will contribute to discussions on the next phases of development of the metropolitan network in this territory," according to the agency.

The ARTM says the studies will provide the agency "with a comprehensive overview of mobility needs across Greater Montreal and identify the most promising investments for citizens and communities."

## ARTM preparing for the future

While acknowledging that public transit funding "remains a significant challenge," the ARTM said it is carrying out the studies to continue "the necessary planning work to prepare for the future."

"We must be ready when the financial context is more favorable because, despite the current challenges, mobility needs will continue to grow," said Gendron. "We must continue planning, define priorities and ensure that tomorrow's projects meet the real needs of citizens and communities."

Reacting to the announcement on Facebook, Mayor Boyer said: "New figures were released this weekend, and they're spectacular! According to a study by the ARTM (Regional Metropolitan Transportation Authority), completing the Orange Line of the Metro between Côte-Vertu and Montmorency stations would move an additional 31,200 people during the morning rush hour."

## He's all for Orange Line extension

"That's more than any other public transit project, and 10 times more than the Third Link in Quebec City," he continued, alluding to the proposed but long postponed third bridge in the province's capital.

"The project would take 11,000 cars off the road along Autoroute 15 and the Metropolitan Expressway, two of the most congested highways in the province," added Boyer.

"The average travel time between downtown Laval and downtown Montreal would be 35 minutes instead of the current 50 minutes – a 40 per cent reduction. And the travel time between Carrefour Laval and Côte-Vertu station by public transit would drop from about an hour to just 14 minutes!"

"This is therefore a project that is good for the economy, good for the environment, and would reduce travel time for both motorists and public transport users. In short, it's time for this project to move forward!"

In an interview with Radio-Canada, Boyer noted that extending the Orange Line to Laval, where it would connect the Montmorency Metro station to the Côte-Vertu station in Montreal, while adding six to eight stations to the network, including one at Carrefour Laval, "is a project that has been in discussion for a very long time," he said.

## Best overall project, says Boyer

"This is probably the mass transit project in Greater Montreal that would attract the most people and would be the best to finance," he continued. While pointing out that up to now, extending the Orange Line was never successfully brought forward, he said the ARTM's support for the project shows that with time, old ideas age well "like good wine" and "this is a project with even more potential than it had back then."

As the proposed Orange Line

extension would likely include several stations in Chomedey, Mayor Boyer suggested it could help rejuvenate this densely-populated sector where a lot of re-development is underway, including 20,000 new housing units in the next ten years.

"There is an enormous potential in terms of the number of people who would be users," said

Boyer. "But it's also a project that would improve the quality of life of people and it would reduce travel time significantly. And from the standpoint of economics and efficiency, delivery people with businesses will spend less time in traffic and do things faster and everybody would win. So, in my opinion, it's a good all-round project."

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# OPINION & Editorial



## Is Ottawa about to break its own supply management law?

If the rumours prove correct, Canadians should brace for more cheques to dairy farmers and more milk dumping U.S. President Donald Trump's latest tariff threat has pushed Canada back to the negotiating table. An additional 50 per cent tariff on specified Canadian goods, scheduled to take effect Aug. 19, appears to have caught Ottawa flat-footed.

The federal government is now scrambling to limit the damage to several industries, including roughly \$1.5 billion in agri-food trade involving Canadian alcoholic beverages, whisky and dairy products.

Start with the provincial bans on American alcohol. Perhaps they were intended to create negotiating leverage, but consumers faced fewer choices and less competitive pressure on prices, while purchases shifted to Canadian brands or non-American imports.

That is not what economic leverage looks like. Real leverage comes from assets other countries need: energy, critical minerals, transportation infrastructure, market access and regulatory cooperation. Restricting consumer choice and suppressing competition is political theatre masquerading as economic strategy.

The dairy file is more complicated and potentially far more consequential.

Late last week, it was reported that Ottawa was considering concessions involving greater access for American dairy proteins. Depending on how such a commitment is structured, it could place the government on a collision course with Bill C-202, the law Parliament adopted in 2025 to prevent future trade agreements from increasing tariff-rate quotas or reducing over-quota tariffs for supply-managed products.

Those quotas determine how much foreign dairy can enter Canada at lower tariff rates.

Although Bill C-202 received support across the political spectrum, that unanimity did not make it sound policy. The legislation effectively told the dairy industry that future governments would protect supply management from further

trade concessions, reducing one of the few remaining incentives to prepare for greater competition, invest in processing capacity and develop a serious long-term strategy.

Now the Americans may be testing just how firm that protection really is.

Ottawa should not grant additional access to American dairy proteins simply to get through the current trade dispute. If concessions are necessary, they should be part of a broader Canadian plan to make the dairy sector more competitive and less vulnerable.

Those who believe American dairy products could never penetrate the Canadian market are missing the point. The Americans are not necessarily trying to sell cartons of milk to Canadian households; they want to sell proteins to Canadian processors. Companies such as Saputo, Agropur and Lactalis could use those lower-cost ingredients in cheese and other manufactured products.

Processors could save money, but consumers would have no guarantee of seeing those savings at the grocery store while Canadian dairy farmers could face reduced demand as processors substitute American proteins for Canadian ones.

Canada has been down this road before.

During the controversy over diafiltered milk proteins, from roughly 2015 to 2018, American proteins entered Canada tariff-free as protein ingredients but could then be treated as milk by Canadian processors. This lowered processors' ingredient costs while displacing some Canadian milk.

Canada responded with milk Classes 6 and 7, allowing domestic proteins to compete at lower prices. The United States objected, and Canada eventually eliminated those classes during negotiations for the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).

Ottawa then compensated dairy farmers.

And that is where we could be heading again. Canada protects the system, eventually makes concessions when trade pressure becomes too great, compensates producers and leaves the underlying problems for another day.

The costs are not trivial. Ottawa has committed more than \$4.8 billion in compensation and support for supply-managed sectors affected by market access granted under CUSMA, the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

There is another problem. Canada already struggles with surplus non-fat milk solids, and additional American proteins could reduce demand for Canadian milk proteins even further, creating more pressure to dispose of milk Canadian farmers have already produced.

Ottawa could find itself in a very awkward position. Barely a year after Parliament passed Bill C-202, the government may have to accommodate American demands anyway, leaving Canadian dairy farmers with fewer market opportunities while taxpayers are asked once again to compensate them.

None of this means supply management needs to be abolished. But protecting the system is not the same thing as strengthening it.

Canada needs greater transparency, independent reporting on milk disposal, more investment in domestic processing and gradual modernization of quota policy.

Bill C-202 was supposed to protect Canadian dairy from future trade concessions, but trying to legislate away trade pressure was never a substitute for reform.

The choice is not between abolishing supply management tomorrow and preserving it unchanged forever. Canada can reform the system on its own terms or wait until pressure from Washington leaves it with fewer choices.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois

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## Two outdoor events in Laval coincide with Perseid meteor showers



Since August is a time of year when the skies come alive with celestial phenomena, it's fitting that two Laval organizations supported by the City of Laval are holding astronomy-themed events on the evening of Wednesday August 12.

From 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the sky observatory in the Centre de la nature, the Laval Amateur Astronomers Club will be presenting Discovering the Perseids, a free no-registration outdoor event during which you will be invited

to discover the sky with the naked eye as well as with the aid of a telescope.

Founded in 1986, the Laval Amateur Astronomers Club offers a meeting place for all those interested in astronomy and the observation of celestial objects.

The club's mission is to foster a community of people who are interested in the science of astronomy for their personal enrichment or wish to learn more on how to observe the sky.

As a non-profit organization accredited by the City of Laval, the Laval Amateur Astronomers Club welcomes without prerequisites young and old who want to practice the hobby of amateur astronomy.

Every Wednesday from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., members meet at the club's premises to attend a lecture by a guest expert, a presentation organized by a member, or to participate in a workshop on astronomy, while choosing and

using a telescope or binoculars.

During the summer, meetings are held at the Jean-Marc-Richard Astronomical Observatory in the Centre de la nature on avenue du Parc, weather permitting.

Depending on demand, the club also organizes training workshops on specific topics to allow interested individuals to develop their skills in particular aspects of astronomy, including lunar observation, planetary and deep-sky observation, astrophotography and specific observation projects.

The Jean-Marc-Richard Astronomical Observatory has been in operation since July 1996 and is the first municipal observatory in North America. There is no other facility of this type in an urban setting that is open for public use.

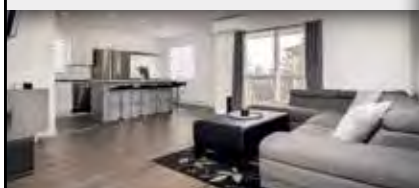
The observatory is considered to be unique in that it is able to show visitors young and old the moon, the planets and the sun using safe, high-quality instruments, all within the City of Laval and free of charge.

Discovering the Perseids is free and open to the whole family. You can observe planets, galaxies, nebulae and the sun with the club's dedicated solar observation instrument – a 7-inch (185 mm) astronomical telescope. A presenter will also be on hand to answer questions.

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## Laval Symphony Orchestra concert to focus on stars and sky

Also on Wednesday Aug. 12, but at Parc Bernard-Landry on boulevard des Prairies in Laval-des-Rapides, the Laval Symphony Orchestra, led by Adam Johnson as artistic director and principal conductor, will be giving a truly unique concert.

For the evening, at the expected annual height of the Perseid meteor showers, the orchestra presents a program themed around the stars, featuring symphonic works by Astor Piazzolla, John Williams and Giuseppe Verdi, among others. From dance to space and even cinema, the evening promises to be magical.

Johnson, an award-winning conductor, is known for his charismatic presence and versatility. In addition to his work with the Laval Symphony Orchestra, Johnson also leads the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra and the Guelph Symphony Orchestra.

A sought-after guest conductor in France and internationally and winner of an Opus Award, he is also actively involved in music education as an educator-in-residence with Mécénat Musica.

In keeping with the celestial theme, the evening's program will include compositions by Richard Strauss (Also sprach Zarathustra), Giuseppe Verdi (Nabucco Overture), Claude Debussy (Clair de Lune), Manuel de Falla



**LSO conductor Adam Johnson is known for his charismatic presence and versatility.**

(Danza del Fuego) and Gustav Holst (The Planets – Jupiter).

The program will also include musical works by Astor Piazzolla (Libertango), Elena Kats-Chernin (Moon Feather Magic), Bill Conti (Rocky - Gonna Fly Now), John Williams (E.T. Adventures on Earth, Across the Stars and Star Wars Main Theme) and Dancing Queen by

ABBA as a finale.

Additional information: There will be some pre-show entertainment, and it is suggested you arrive early to enjoy a picnic, or offerings from food trucks on site. While seating will be available, it is recommended you bring your own folding chair. As parking will be limited, use of public transportation is strongly

recommended.

In case of inclement weather or circumstances beyond control, the performance may be cancelled. If in doubt, it is suggested you check the performance details for updates. You can also contact the City of Laval's central info line at 3-1-1 during business hours for more information.



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# More than 20,000 attended Rose-Art's 30th annual Symposium Ste-Rose

*Artists and sculptors showcased their best in Laval's Vieux Sainte-Rose*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
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While summer rain in recent years has been a constant worry for the organizers of the annual Symposium Ste-Rose, there was hardly a drop of moisture in the air during this year's three-day art event. However, the threat came from another force of nature – wind.

As most of the artists exhibit their works outdoors in tents, efforts this year to set up the equipment in Laval's Vieux Sainte-Rose neighborhood had its challenging moments, according to Oprina Félicia Dolea, president of the Corporation Rose-Art which organizes the symposium.



Attendance at the Symposium Ste-Rose was up this year, possibly because of the good weather, according to Oprina Félicia Dolea, president of the Corporation Rose-Art which organizes the symposium. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

## Coping with nature's forces

"We started installing them at six in the evening the day before we opened and we had to deal with the wind – but now everything is okay," she said.

If anything, the lack of rain seemed to have encouraged people to turn out in larger than usual numbers this year – which was the Symposium Ste-Rose's 30th anniversary. For some of the artists, that meant brisk sales of art pieces and canvases – or just greater public exposure for their art.



Legendary Quebec chanteuse Shirley Thérour (seen here with one of her abstract paintings) was the official spokesperson for the 2026 Symposium Ste-Rose. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

From July 23 to 26, appreciators of quality sculpture and art from all over Quebec, as well as Ontario and other parts of eastern Canada, gathered in Vieux Sainte Rose for an event that has come to be recognized as one of Quebec's leading and most prestigious outdoor art shows.

## Shirley Thérour singer and artist

For the third time, the organizers were able to persuade legendary Quebec singer Shirley Thérour – a talented visual artist in addition to her musical talents – to be the official spokesperson for the symposium.

Thérour had a string of hits in Quebec, as well as in Eastern Ontario, Atlantic Canada and other French-speaking regions of the country, during the 1960s and 1970s. She was also a highly popular late-afternoon program host on French-language television in Quebec. Several of Thérour's art works were featured in a special segment of the 2026 symposium.

After years of developing herself as a painter of figurative or representational art, Shirley Thérour exhibited a selection of paintings she produced since last year as abstracts. "I worked on this one six months," she said in an interview, noting that abstract is far more difficult, requiring more concentration than most people imagine.

## AI makes inroads into art

"It takes time to study your canvas, to verify the colors to see that everything is in the right place – why there is green here and black there – it's not just tossing paint randomly – it's not like that at all," she added.

As Artificial Intelligence continues to make its way into a growing number of sectors of human activity, it was only a matter of time before AI would begin to influence the world of art – and the Symposium Ste-Rose.

Oprina Félicia Dolea acknowledged that she and others in the art collective were aware that AI might actually have been used to help create some works in this year's symposium, while adding that Rose-Arts has no guidelines or rules for how AI is used by participating artists. Still, she suggested it could have legitimate uses in the creation of art as a new kind of tool alongside canvases, paints and brushes.

## Home of renowned artists

In addition to Thérour's support, the symposium's honorary president this year was Christopher Skeete, Member of the Quebec National Assembly for Sainte-Rose.

As always, the symposium took place alongside the Rivière des Mille-Îles in the charming and historic Laval neighbourhood. The village is renowned as the birthplace of internationally-acclaimed Québécois painter Marc-Aurèle Fortin. Sainte-Rose was also at one time the home of landscape painter Clarence Gagnon. Both influenced generations of artists in Quebec as well as around the world.

## Awards of excellence

After winning a range of awards for excellence over nearly three decades, the symposium's organizing committee continues to uphold the standards that have established the Symposium Ste-Rose's reputation for excellence in art circles across eastern Canada.

In 2019, the Laval Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented them with a Dunamis award for helping to promote tourism in Laval. They were also a finalist for a second Dunamis in 2020 and 2022, as an environmentally-sustainable organization or enterprise.

An estimated 20,000 people attended. Although most are usually from the Laval and greater Montreal regions, the busy vacation season typically also draws in visitors from Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as well as from the U.S. states of New York, New Hampshire and Vermont.



Among the artists from outside Laval who exhibited at this year's Symposium Ste-Rose was Maria Astadjov from Deux-Montagnes on the North Shore. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Newsfirst Multimedia)

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# More than 140 local leaders honoured at 'Recognition Evening' by Sona Lakhoyan Olivier

*It was 'an opportunity to express my sincere gratitude,' says independent Chomedey MNA*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
marty@newsfirst.ca

In a celebration of generosity, civic engagement and community spirit, more than 140 guests gathered on the evening of July 21 at the Armenian Community Centre on Elizabeth Blvd. in Chomedey for a Recognition Evening hosted by Sona Lakhoyan Olivier, the MNA for Chomedey.

The evening recognized the outstanding contributions of organizations, cultural communities, volunteers, partners, community leaders and local media "whose dedication and commitment continue to strengthen the Chomedey community and enhance the quality of life of its residents," a spokesperson for Lakhoyan Olivier's said in a statement.

## An expression of appreciation

Bringing together representatives from across Laval, the event – which included wine, canapés and a lavish seafood buffet served afterwards – was "a heartfelt expression of appreciation for those who dedicate their time, energy and passion to building a more inclusive, caring and vibrant community," the spokesperson added.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of certificates of appreciation, the



FILIA executive-director Johanna Tsoublekas (third from right) and other FILIA supporters and board members were among the 140 people presented with certificates of appreciation by Chomedey MNA Sona Lakhoyan Olivier. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal president Basile Angelopoulos (a former Laval city councillor and executive-committee vice-president) received an Inukshuk Award and a certificate in acknowledgment of his many years of public service. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)

Médaille de souvenir de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec, as well as the Inukshuk Award, to individuals whose exceptional leadership, volunteerism and community involvement were judged to have made a lasting and meaningful impact on Chomedey.

"Over the past four years, I have had the privilege of working alongside remarkable individuals and organizations whose dedication inspires me every day," said Lakhoyan Olivier who was elected as a Quebec Liberal in 2022 before becoming independent.

"This evening was an opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and recognize the invaluable contributions that make Chomedey such a welcoming and dynamic community," she said.

The evening also highlighted a fundraising initiative in support of the Fondation Cité de

la Santé de Laval. Through the generosity of attendees, a total of \$3,775 was raised during the event.

## MNA's matching donation to hospital

Lakhoyan Olivier reaffirmed her commitment to match the collected donations, while also pledging an additional \$5,000 grant through the Subvention au bénévolat program to help the Fondation Cité de la Santé de Laval continue its mission and services.

While explaining the work done by the Fondation Cité de la Santé, André Malacket, executive-director of the foundation, noted that Cité de la Santé will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary. He said they are currently in the midst of organizing a major event set to

take place in the main ice rink at Place Bell in Laval in September 2027.

Malacket said he recently asked his board what they thought of the idea of going all out during the 50th anniversary by setting a \$50 million fundraising goal. "That's what we're going to be announcing very soon," he said, adding that the target amount hadn't yet been made public.

At the same time, Malacket said efforts have begun to recruit new members to the Fondation Cité de la Santé. "We need to diversify the composition of the administrative board. When I went in, it was obvious to me it was a boys' club. And there were no women, no

► Continued on page 11

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◀ Continued from page 10

representatives from the ethnic communities.”

**Diversifying the hospital’s board**

He said the foundation is currently searching for leaders from Laval’s multicultural commu-

ities to join the Fondation Cité de la Santé board. “It’s important for us to diversify the board, especially to reach our 50th anniversary fundraising goals.”

With more than 140 attendees, “the Recognition Evening reflected the strength, diversity and solidarity that define Chomedey,”

added the spokesperson’s statement. “It was a meaningful opportunity to celebrate achievements, recognize community excellence, and reinforce the importance of collaboration.”

The evening concluded with a well-stocked buffet prepared by P.B. Banquet, allowing guests to continue celebrating, connecting

and sharing throughout the remaining evening.

Lakhoyan Olivier extended her heartfelt appreciation to all attendees, volunteers, organizations, partners and community leaders “whose continued dedication helps build a stronger, more united and more prosperous Chomedey,” she said.



Constantine ‘Gus’ Milonopoulos and Aglaia Revelakis were presented by Lakhoyan Olivier with a statuette and medallion respectively for their support for the Club social du Manoir Laval which serves senior residents of Chomedey. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Zissis Fotopoulos was presented with a certificate, a sculpture and a medallion in recognition of his efforts over the years to support the Panarcadian Brotherhood of Canada. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



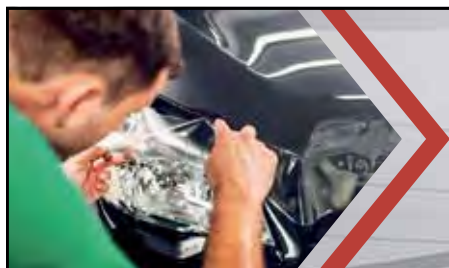
Among those honored for their generosity and commitment to well-being in Chomedey were representatives from the Société Saint-Vincent-de-Paul Conférence St. Martin. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Local organizers for the Pan Armenian Games were also presented with certificates and tokens of appreciation. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



Representatives from the Centre culturel des Arméniens d’Istanbul were also presented with certificates of recognition, medallions and small sculptures by Chomedey MNA Sona Lakhoyan Olivier for their contributions to Chomedey. (Photo: Martin C. Barry, Laval News)



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# Back-to-back beverage and health festivals help celebrate summer in Laval

*Festivals des Vins et Spiritueux and Festival Manger Santé draw 10,000 guests*

**MARTIN C. BARRY**

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
marty@newsfirst.ca

Organizers of the Festival des Vins et Spiritueux de Laval and the inaugural Festival Manger Santé de Laval which were held in July say both festivals were an outstanding success.

The Festival des Vins et Spiritueux de Laval celebrates wine, spirits and gourmet experiences, while the Festival Manger Santé de Laval promotes healthy living through nutrition, wellness and local entrepreneurship.

Together, according to the organizers, the two summertime events are establishing themselves as part of Laval's signature summer festival experience – a celebration where culture, commerce, community and discovery come together.

Each event featured more than 50 exhibitors and attracted over 5,000 visitors each to Centropolis Laval for two consecutive weekends.

## More reason to be proud

"Our vision has always been to create festivals that celebrate people, culture and local entrepreneurship while giving residents another reason to be proud of their city," said festival co-organizer David De Cotis, who is also the Laval city councillor for Saint-Bruno.

"Seeing more than 10,000 people attend our events confirms that Laval was ready for experiences like these," he added. "We are building something that we believe will become a tradition for generations to come."

Regarding the Festival Manger Santé, De Cotis agreed it's an area of consumer interest where there is a great deal of room for growth.

With an aging population increasingly focused on personal wellness and health, in conjunction with a decline in the ready availability of public health services, it's difficult to predict expanding interest in the sector.

## A focus on wellness

"There's a huge event like this that takes place in Montreal and we wanted to do something similar in Laval that meets the needs of the people here," De Cotis said. "As people are aging, they are paying more and more attention to their bodies. So, this is a beautiful niche

to offer these products and services in Laval."

The organizers were able to convince at least one major sponsor, health food retailer Marchés TAU, to jump aboard and anchor the Festival Manger Santé de Laval. According to De Cotis, that crucial support encouraged smaller businesses and entrepreneurs to also sign on as exhibitors.

According to the organizers, the festivals attracted visitors from Laval, Montreal and from across the greater Montreal region, while showcasing local businesses, wineries, distilleries, food producers, health and wellness organizations, artisans and community partners.

## Enthusiasm beyond expectations

Together, they say, the two festivals generated significant economic activity and strengthened Laval's position as an exciting summer destination.

"The enthusiasm from both our exhibitors and our visitors exceeded every expectation," said James Bissi, another festival co-organizer.

"Many exhibitors have already expressed their desire to return next year, which is the greatest compliment we could receive," he continued. "Their confidence tells us that these festivals create real value – not only for businesses, but for the entire community."

With more than 10,000 visitors combined and over 100 exhibitors participating across both festivals, the organizers maintain that the events are becoming strong contenders in the region's most anticipated summer celebrations.

## Planning next year's events

They say planning is already underway for the 2027 editions, with expanded programming, new attractions and announcements on developments to come.

"From the very beginning, our objective was to create events that unite people through exceptional food, beverages, wellness and culture while showcasing everything Laval has to offer," said Emilio Migliozi, another co-organizer.

"The response from the public has been remarkable, and we are excited to continue growing these festivals into a signature summer tradition that attracts visitors from across Quebec," he said.

In life as in the world of entrepreneurialism and community engagement, networking occupies a very important place.

As such, De Cotis acknowledged in an interview with The Laval



David De Cotis (second from right) is seen here with Festival Manger Santé de Laval exhibitor representatives in July.

News that each of the three co-organizers, who formed a committee to oversee the two festivals, is (or was at one time) affiliated with the Action Laval municipal party.

## A political connection

James Bissi (who is De Cotis's nephew, according to De Cotis) was Action Laval's candidate in the district of Sainte-Dorothée in the 2025 municipal elections. However, Bissi has distanced himself from the party since then and is no longer a registered member, according to De Cotis.

As for Migliozi, he served Action Laval as a political attaché as recently as 2014. Apart from that, he was an early supporter of the Mouvement lavallois, which now holds the most seats in Laval city council, although he left to join Action Laval.

In spite of the shared connection, De Cotis insisted they went to great lengths to keep politics out of the two festivals.

"This is not political at all and I don't want Action Laval to be involved in this," he said. "We purposely didn't put anything related to politics. We didn't ask any municipal councillors to be sponsors in any way."





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# Things to do



# UPCOMING

Looking for something to do? Here are some upcoming events happening in the Laval area.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| <h2>FESTIVAL MOSAÏQUE</h2>  <p><b>August 13 – August 15</b><br/>1799 Pierre-Péladeau Avenue, H7T 2Y5</p> <p>The MOSAÏQUE Laval Festival, conceived and produced by La Centrale, is a unifying event that celebrates the richness of cultural diversity through the arts, transforming public spaces into cultural venues. Created to address the underrepresentation of cultural diversity, the festival is based on five values: inclusivity, boldness, diversity, fraternity, and respect.</p> <p><a href="http://festivalmosaiquelaval.com">festivalmosaiquelaval.com</a></p> | <h2>VERNISSAGE L'EAU PHILOSOPHIQUE</h2>  <p><b>Until August 16</b><br/><b>Rivière-des-Mille-Îles Park</b><br/>345 Sainte-Rose Boulevard, H7L 1M7</p> <p>This exhibition invites visitors to slow down, listen to what water teaches us about fragility, resilience, and balance, and feel rather than merely understand. It is a sensory experience, open to all, where everyone can project their own inner current onto it. Don't miss this opportunity to immerse yourself in Charlem Lepeintre's poetic world.</p> <p><a href="http://parc-mille-iles.qc.ca">parc-mille-iles.qc.ca</a></p> | <h2>RECON</h2>  <p><b>August 16 – August 17</b><br/><b>Sheraton Laval Hotel</b><br/>2440 A. des Laurentides, H7T 1X5</p> <p>Reality Escape Convention (RECON) is the must-attend event for escape game enthusiasts. Attend talks, get a behind-the-scenes look at how immersive games are created, explore the latest technologies in the field, and connect with a passionate community.</p> <p><a href="http://realityescapecon.com">realityescapecon.com</a></p> | <h2>MYLES SMITH</h2>  <p><b>August 18</b><br/><b>Place Bell</b><br/>1950 Claude-Gagné Street, H7N 5H9</p> <p>Myles Smith has quickly made a name for himself as an exceptional singer-songwriter in the United Kingdom. Known for his contemporary folk style, he is currently on an international tour to promote his new album, *My Mess, My Heart, My Life*. Get ready for a memorable evening full of emotion.</p> <p><a href="http://evenko.ca">evenko.ca</a></p> |
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# LPD concludes Projet Daurade with arrests and asset seizures

The Laval Police announced recently that they concluded a major investigation, dubbed Projet Daurade, aimed at dismantling a criminal network operating within its territory.

The operation, which lasted over a year and a half, was designed to curb the illicit activities of a group involved in drug trafficking and money laundering, according to the LPD.

Among the assets and materials seized by the police:

- Three buildings valued at over \$2.8 million;
- Five vehicles;
- Over \$300,000 in luxury goods and proceeds of crime;
- Over \$555,000 in cash;
- 51 kg of cannabis, 1.4 kg of cocaine, 1.5 kg of MDMA, 700 g of methamphetamine, and several other controlled substances;
- 4 firearms;
- Equipment for the production and processing of narcotics.

# Laval man nabbed in Hawkesbury at wheel of stolen vehicle

A 28-year-old male resident of Laval is facing more than a dozen criminal charges after attempting to flee Ontario Provincial Police in Hawkesbury in eastern Ontario while at the wheel of a vehicle that was found to have been stolen.

Frederik Samson was arrested on the morning of July 27 after OPP officers used a device to puncture the tires of the vehicle when he failed to heed an order to stop.

The charges against him include:

- Theft of a motor vehicle
- Mischief over \$5,000
- Fleeing from a peace officer
- Dangerous vehicle operation
- Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000
- Failure to comply with a release order
- Four counts of failing to comply with a probation order
- Possession of a device for the purpose of committing theft
- Possession of break-in tools
- Possession of a weapon for dangerous purpose
- Failing to stop at a red light in a community safety zone
- Attempting to pass when roadway not clear in approaching traffic in community safety zone
- Driving wrong way in one way traffic in a community safety zone
- Driving wrong way on a divided highway in a community safety zone
- Driving a motor vehicle without a licence

# Two dead after high-speed crash into gym on des Laurentides

Two people died last week after a speeding car crashed into a Laval gym following what police say was an unsuccessful attempt to pull over the vehicle for a traffic code violation.

The driver was pronounced dead at the scene, while two passengers, both age 19, were taken to hospital. While one of them died, the other remained in critical condition.

Police patrollers in Laval's Pont-Viau district attempted to stop the vehicle around 1:20 a.m. on Wednesday August 5.

After police turned on a warning siren, the suspects fled, at which point officers decided not to pursue to avoid a dangerous high-speed chase.

A short time later, the officers saw that the vehicle had hit a building, identified as the Atlantis Gym on des Laurentides Blvd. at the corner of Renaud St.

At the scene of the crash, the car had split in two as a result of the impact and a lamppost had also fallen across the street.



One of the passengers, identified as female, died in hospital, while the other, a male, was in critical condition.

# Former Ste-Rose teacher gets house arrest after sexually exploiting teen

A 62-year-old former public-school teacher from Laval now living in Toronto has been sentenced to 10 months of house arrest followed by 14 months of curfew after being found guilty of sexually exploiting a teenage girl two decades ago.

François Durocher had taught ecology to the complainant, an unnamed 16-year-old girl, at École secondaire Curé-Antoine-Labelle in Sainte-Rose around the beginning of the 2000s.

Around the same time, he was also a grade school teacher at École primaire Villemaire also in Sainte-Rose.

Education

An affair between him and the girl began when they ran into each other after she had dropped out of school.

He offered her a place to stay in his home, while making a condition that she would go back to finish her high-school.

According to court testimony, the two had a sexual relationship over a period of several months.

Durocher had reportedly also been previously arrested for alleged sexual improprieties involving another student, although that case was dropped.

In rendering his decision, Quebec Court Judge Alex Dalpé said he took into account that “there was a relationship involving confidence, an abuse of authority.”

In addition to the house arrest and curfew, Durocher’s name will appear in the national sex offenders’ registry for the next 20 years.



Crews from the Laval Fire Dept. faced a challenge during the early morning hours of July 31 when two sheds located on a rural property on des Perron Avenue in Auteuil caught fire.

The problem: in this rural part of Laval, there wasn't any nearby source of city water the firemen could readily tap into

# Fire destroys sheds on des Perron Ave. in rural Auteuil

to extinguish the blaze thought to have been started by sparks from a campfire.

As a result, they had to bring in water in tanker trucks.

While a residence located near the sheds was evacuated as a precaution, it didn't sustain any damage, but the sheds suffered an estimated \$60,000 in damages.

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# Kids' corner



## 5 ways to give a new student a warm welcome to your class



Is a new boy or girl planning to join your class at school? You should know that a new student can find changing schools quite stressful, especially if they don't know anyone in their new class. Of course, the adults will do their best to make them feel comfortable. But what can you do to make the newcomer feel welcome? Here are a few suggestions.

1. **Go up to them** with a smile and introduce yourself. Say your name and share something about yourself, such as "My name is Charlie, I love science, and I'm on the environmental committee."

2. **Ask them questions** to get to know them better, like "Do you like video games?" or "Do you play a musical instrument?" or "Do you have a pet?"

3. **Show them around** the school. Point out key places, especially if the signs aren't clear. Remind the student where to find the toilets, the library and the gym.

4. **Save a seat** for them at your usual lunch table and introduce them to your classmates. New students are often scared of eating in the cafeteria for the first time. This small gesture can bring them a huge sense of relief.

5. **Offer to do homework** or study together. Give them your phone number or email address so you can keep in touch after school and on weekends.

Always be patient and don't feel discouraged if the new student doesn't choose to spend all their time with you and wants to meet other people. If you have a kind, open and caring attitude, everything will work out.



## How to use your school planner: expert tips

Your school planner is a valuable tool. Do you know how to use it properly? Here are a few tips.

### WRITE DOWN WHAT'S IMPORTANT

Start by writing down all the information you might need. Record your homework, lessons and due dates for assignments, along with the dates of your exams and oral presentations. Include your extracurricular activities, such as dance, swimming or karate. You can also record the plans you have for activities with family and friends.

### MAKE IT YOUR OWN

Use unique details to make your planner easier for you to read.



For example, assign a different colour to each subject, such as blue for math or green for French. You can also highlight or circle important dates or add small symbols. When you complete a task, check it off or cross it out—it's an excellent trick to keep you motivated.

### CHECK IT OFTEN

Always have your planner on hand, whether you're at school or at home. By checking it often throughout the day, you can stay on track and avoid forgetting things. For example, look at it in the morning before catching the bus, between classes and on your way home.

When you're an adult, you'll probably have a planner for work or for keeping your family organized. The habits you build now will serve you for your whole life.

Many schools have specific rules about how students should use their planners.

To avoid getting in trouble, check with your school before making any changes, such as doodling or adding stickers, to your planner.

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# DIRECT ANSWERS

FROM WAYNE & TAMARA

## EXPIRATION DATE

**Q** I have been with my boyfriend two years, and we've had our disagreements. I believe we always come out of them better people realizing we both have aspects of our personality we need to work on.

He thinks it would be a good idea to live together before we get married. I do not. My thinking is, if you want to live with me then why not just get married? This argument went on and on until I compromised and said, "I will live with you only if I have a ring and a wedding date."

My boyfriend has his own apartment, which I do not have the key to, and I have been spending a lot of time there lately. About a year ago, he left me because we had a difference in religious beliefs, but the next day he came back and apologized. I forgave him and we sorted everything out.

A month ago we had a discussion about him liking it when I was at his apartment. He said he wants me in his life, I help him figure things out, and he wished I could be there all the time. I told him, "You can easily fix that...it's called engagement." And then I left.

I called him back in a few hours and said, "Fine, we'll do the counseling thing. It would be good for both of us." He says he is not ready for marriage because he can't tell me when he's upset with me. We are in counseling for this, and my fear is he will keep coming up with excuses why we can't marry.

I promised myself I will not be one of those girls who sits around every holiday and birthday, thinking, "Oh! Maybe he'll give me a ring now!" I'm not like that, and I never want to be. When he told me he's afraid I will walk out on him again, I remind him he has always walked out on me.

I'm afraid I am wasting my time. I want to be married, and I want to have children and so does he. Should I stick it out or walk away?

Nicole

**A** Nicole, if you are looking for a strategy to get what you want, skip the counseling and save the money. There is a cheaper solution. Stop delivering yourself to his apartment. The current arrangement doesn't even cost your boyfriend the time to date you.

It's not that you have an old-fashioned sensibility. Rather you have a down-to-earth nature, and you are no country bumpkin. You know moving in will make it too convenient for him not to marry you. When he tires of the arrangement, he won't need a divorce. He will simply tell you to move out.

A man who loves a woman wants to make her his own. Counseling sessions are a sign that the deep connection, which must be there for love to last a lifetime, is absent. The most obvious conclusion is that your boyfriend isn't confused. He knows what he wants. He wants you without marriage.

Wayne & Tamara

## OLD BUSINESS

**Q** I have decided to divorce my husband. I have done everything I could to save this marriage. I am so worn out and angry with myself for not leaving sooner.

One of his retorts is, "What took you so long to figure out you are miserable?" That implies I am so dumb I don't know what's good for me. My question is, how can someone who has

everything on the ball, fall victim to this and not make a move before now?

Neva

**A** Neva, people are loss-averse. They hold on to losing stocks and bad investments far too long because to cash them out is to admit an error. We all have a terrible time admitting mistakes, and that is why you held on for so long.

Wayne & Tamara

WAYNE & TAMARA MITCHELL are the authors of YOUR OTHER HALF ([www.yourotherhalf.com](http://www.yourotherhalf.com))

Send letters to: Direct Answers, PO 964 Springfield, MO 65801-0964

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Taking a step back will be enough to resolve major issues affecting your future. Discussions and negotiations will be necessary, and you'll need to carefully consider each option before finalizing an agreement.



### TAURUS

Finding a solution that satisfies everyone is difficult when opinions clash. You'll need to be creative to ease tensions, come up with original compromises and restore a harmonious atmosphere around you.



### GEMINI

A series of small victories will restore your confidence. With this renewed self-esteem, you'll feel more comfortable defending an idea or a personal project and taking concrete steps to implement it.



### CANCER

Your priority will be to design an efficient and inspiring home workspace. With solid organization, your leadership qualities will shine through, and you'll be ready to develop your own ventures with confidence.



### LEO

Matters of the heart will occupy your thoughts. Through thoughtful gestures, discreet acts of kindness and sincere words, you'll help the relationship grow, gradually deepening both your feelings and those of your partner.



### VIRGO

The prospect of a real estate transaction could arise: a sale, a purchase or a renovation. You'll explore more advantageous options, both to reduce expenses and to improve the comfort and stability of your home.



### LIBRA

Several people will call on you, leading to frequent trips. The increased volume of travel could become an opportunity to treat yourself to a few small pleasures, or even to consider upgrading to a vehicle better suited to your lifestyle.



### SCORPIO

By carefully analyzing your budget, you'll realize that your financial resources are sufficient to move forward with a major project. What you thought was out of reach will suddenly become achievable, opening the door to a dream you've had for a long time.



### SAGITTARIUS

The weight of your responsibilities might discourage you at first, but your recent progress will prove that you have solid resources at your disposal. Once you realize this, you'll finally dare to act with an unstoppable determination.



### CAPRICORN

Taking a step back will help you clarify your goals. Professionally, you're aiming higher and more precisely, but this progress will require a gradual evolution, patiently built over time.



### AQUARIUS

The holidays are barely over, and you're already dreaming of your next getaway in good company. At the office, you might lead a big meeting with colleagues or partners, creating a defining moment for your organization.



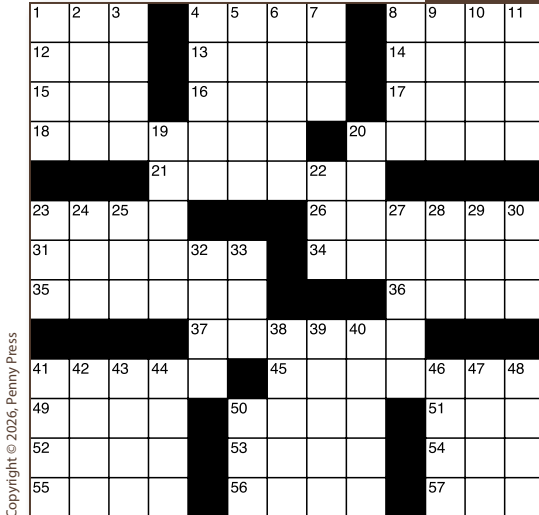
### PISCES

You're feeling a need to grow internally and intellectually. You might be considering a career change or a journey of personal development. Embracing these changes could prove deeply beneficial for your growth.

# Coffee Break

## CROSSWORD

GRID N° 309



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### ACROSS

- Current measure, for short
- Huck's boat
- Wilts
- Douglas
- A woodwind
- October gem
- Summer drink
- Funny
- Sub shop
- Parachute part: 2 wds.
- Gold purity measure
- Reach
- Rosary component
- Gathered
- Apprehend
- Creepier
- Skin design
- Just
- Top's counterpart
- Dull pains

- Dangers
- Feet of
- Sample tape
- Suffer
- Grade
- Prayer ender
- Use snow runners
- Wool producers
- Simple
- In the know

### DOWN

- Out of range
- Skirt style
- Get ready
- R2-D2, e.g.
- Cancel a space launch
- Henry or Jane
- 20th letter
- Cola, e.g.
- Imitator
- Festive event
- Narrow gash
- Military student
- Joint
- Great wrath
- Baseball stick
- Chapter in history, perhaps
- Gallery exhibit
- Pleasing smell
- Dowel
- Wiggly sea creature
- Not wet
- Cries
- Also
- Subject
- Meeker
- Atmosphere layer
- Land division
- Animal's nail
- Detest
- Organs of sight
- Hasty
- Embankment
- Fall
- Water barrier

## Sudoku

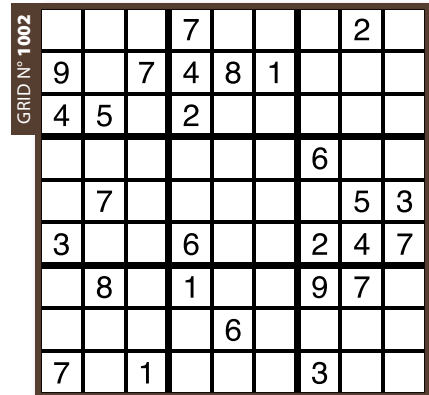
### HOW TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once.

Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line.

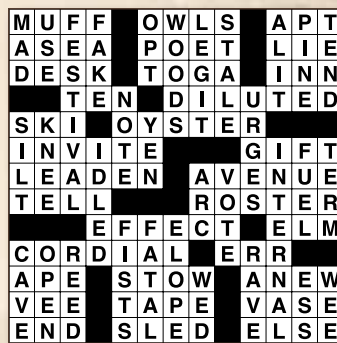
You already have a few numbers to get you started.

Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column, or 3x3 box.

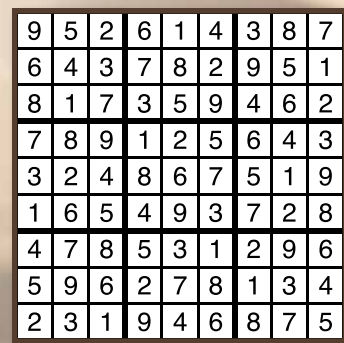


### LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

## CROSSWORD



## Sudoku



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